



Questions for Application for the Week of February 17, 2014
Part 3 - Lust Defiles. Love Your Spouse. - Matthew 5:27-30

Note: In our Life Groups this week we'll be spending the duration of the evening discussing these questions in breakout format rather than our usual full group discussion.

1. Marriage is a covenant witnessed by God (Malachi 2:13-16) and an illustration of Christ and the Church to the world (Ephesians 5:31-32). Compare and contrast the biblical view of marriage with what people in our culture might think. What are some practical implications of these biblical truths and what difference should they make in our lives?

2. Jesus' greater righteousness calls us to not just avoid committing adultery physically but to not look at another with lustful intent (Matthew 5:28), that is desiring and/or imagining a sexual relationship with somebody who is not your spouse. What is the difference between being tempted and committing this sin in your heart? How does James 1:14-15 inform your answer?

3. Jesus encourages us that nothing is worth it if it causes you to sin (Matthew 5:29-30).

- Are you honest with yourself about areas that cause you temptation? Obviously each of us could have different answers, but can you identify areas that may need attention in your own life? What might they be?
- Using hyperbole Jesus exhorts us to take dramatic steps to rid ourselves of that which could cause us to sin. What might God be calling you to do in order to protect yourself from temptation?

4. Read Proverbs 5; 6:20-35; and 7. What are the similarities between these proverbs and what strikes you from their instruction? What (if anything) might they cause you to think about differently and how might you apply their direction in your life?

5. Given the subject matter it only seems appropriate to ask, have you been exposed this week to any explicit materials (or otherwise) that has caused you to stumble and/or been with a man or woman this week in such a way that was inappropriate or could have looked to others that you were using poor judgment? Considering 1 John 1:9-10, how might you need to respond?